



# HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 22 • May 30, 2008



## New Maps Available on Website

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

The Public Safety Services Bureau (PSSB) is pleased to announce the addition of two new maps to its website at <http://interop.mt.gov>. The first of the new maps is called the "Interactive IM Status Map," and offers a complete, up-to-date report on all identified sites in the Interoperability Montana (IM) Project. Simply click on a particular site and view activities and work currently in progress at the site as well as planned activities or work. The report also lists completed activities and work on the site as well as any particular issues that might be affecting the site.

The second new map is called "IM Build Out," and is a brief PowerPoint presentation that begins with a blank map of Montana. Click once to see the beginning of the IM Project with sites in Lewis and Clark County. A second click shows the microwave paths of those sites. A third click shows trunking at all the Lewis and Clark County sites, which was accomplished in the summer of 2005. Continued clicks feature the build out of the Northern Tier, the addition of microwave, and development of new sites across the state. It ends with a view at what the final build out will ideally look like in the future.

PSSB is grateful to Northrop Grumman, which developed both of these maps. They will be a great resource for consortia members and other agencies involved in the IM Project.

## NACo Interoperable Communications Working Forum

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

Nearly 40 representatives from local jurisdictions around the country participated in a working forum this week in Washington D.C. sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo). PSSB staff member, Wing Spooner, was among them. Each representative was assigned to one of four

subject areas to develop materials and products that can help other counties, cities and tribal nations deal with interoperable communications-related issues.

The four subject areas addressed were:

- *Funding for Sustainable Interoperable Communications* – Representatives in this group are compiling tips, best practices and advice on how to build a long-term funding stream that is not overly dependent on any one source.
- *Interoperability 101 for Local Elected Officials* – This working group is developing a short introduction about interoperability for government officials. The group also is tasked with describing local jurisdiction's roles related to each lane of SAFECOM's Interoperability Continuum, including governance, standard operating procedures, technology, training and exercises and usage.
- *Choosing Technology* – This group is addressing what procurement vehicles, such as RFPs, should include when purchasing or upgrading voice and data technology, how and where to get unbiased advice, what questions to ask consultants, how to apply the P25 Applications Suite, and how to "sell" the choices to those who make budget decisions.
- *Building Relationships: The Backbone of Interoperability* – Representatives in this group are describing best practices and models and compiling ideas for overcoming roadblocks when building multidisciplinary and multi-jurisdictional governance relationships.

Work will continue throughout the summer to create a variety of internet-based documents, tools, techniques and checklists to benefit local officials everywhere in their efforts to promote interoperability. Your *Heard Across Montana* editor will keep you posted when materials become available.



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## Upcoming Meetings

### June 2

IMGC Finance Sub-Committee  
Helena • 9:00 am - Noon  
Anderson & ZurMuehlen • 828 Great Northern Blvd.

### June 2

IM Governance Committee  
Helena • Noon - 5:00 pm  
DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

### June 3

IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting  
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm • State Capitol

### June 5 (Please note date change)

Northern Tier (NTIP)  
Havre • 9:00 am  
Great Northern Inn, 1345 1<sup>st</sup> St.

### June 9

Fleet Mapping Meeting  
Helena • 9:00 am - Noon  
Law Enforcement Center, 221 Breckenridge

### June 11

Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)  
Great Falls • 10:00 am  
Wheat Building, 750 6th Street SW

### June 11

South Central Montana Consortium (SCMIC)  
Livingston • 10:00 am  
Park County Courthouse, 414 East Callender Street

### June 11

Statewide Interoperable Executive Council (SIEC)  
Helena • 10:00 am • Location to be announced

### June 16

Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Consortium  
Bozeman • 10:00 am  
Best Western City Center Motel, 507 W Main St.

### June 17

Western Interoperability Comm. Consortium (WICC)  
Hamilton • 10:00 am  
Ravalli County Courthouse, 215 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St.

### June 19

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium  
Butte • 10:00 am  
Chamber of Commerce; 1000 George St.

### June 23

IM Technical Committee (IMTC) Meeting  
Helena • 9:00 am • State Capitol

### June 25

Tri-County Consortium  
Helena • 10:00 am  
DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

### June 25

Eastern Tier Consortium (ETIC)  
Glendive • 10:00 am  
Law Enforcement Center; 440 Colorado Blvd.

### June 26

Big Sky 11 Consortium  
Columbus • 10:00 am • Fire Hall, 2305 8th Ave N.